32. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein the building a database of information includes building a database of product information relating to the existing installed components including product name, current release level, current maintenance level, and a web site address for the vendor system.

33. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein the retrieving product information relating to the new component includes retrieving product alerts, validation of the product's maintenance level, current message translation tables, and diagnostic information.

34. (new) The system of claim 33, wherein the message translation tables include at least one of:
   a warning flag;
   error symptom strings;
   expanded text or display; and
   a wizard.

35. (new) The system of claim 34, wherein the warning flag indicates at lest one of:
   an existing event or situation is recoverable;
   a diagnosis exists for a given error string; and
   a wizard is available for a given event.

36. (new) The system of claim 34, wherein the error symptom strings contain at least one of a program name, a failure code, routine name, and offsets.

37. (new) The system of claim 34, wherein the expanded text or display include explanations of an event or condition.

38. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein the verifying requirements and compatibility include verifying existing system resources for the user system.

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39. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein the configuring includes tuning existing installed components of the user system, the tuning operable for adjusting a component to operate efficiently in its system environment.

40. (new) The system of 39, wherein the tuning is triggered upon an occurrence of an abnormal event.

41. (new) The system of claim 30, wherein the consolidated monitoring tool further performs diagnostics, the diagnostics performed by:

retrieving a detailed description of an error encountered by the user system; and

presenting the detailed description to the user system.

42. (new) The system of claim 41, wherein the consolidated monitoring tool performs the diagnostics via:

retrieving a list of action items from the database, the action items including at least one of a suggested configuration, tuning, and system upgrade; and

presenting the list to the user system.

43. (new) A system for managing computer system performance, the system including a user system comprising:

a workstation;

a consolidated monitoring tool executing on the workstation, the consolidated monitoring tool monitoring activities occurring on the user system; and

a communications link to a vendor system, the vendor system supplying at least one of a component and service to the user system;

wherein upon encountering a minor error, the consolidated monitoring tool performs:

searching a database for the minor error;

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displaying a corresponding explanation of the minor error for a user via translation tables stored in the user system; and

displaying a corresponding set of action items for resolving the minor error or preventing a future occurrence of the minor error.

44. (new) The system of claim 41, further comprising:

upon encountering a severe error, the consolidated monitoring tool performs:

providing a detailed explanation of the severe error;

providing an explanation of a recovery plan underway to correct the severe error; and

connecting to the vendor system web site for assistance.

45. (new) A method for managing computer system performance, comprising:

querying a user system for an inventory of existing installed components in response to installing a new component on the user system;

building a database of information acquired in response to the querying;

connecting to a vendor system web site using vendor connection information extracted from the database;

retrieving product information relating to the new component from the vendor system web site;

verifying requirements and compatibility of the new component against the existing installed components; and

determining an optimum configuration for the user system based upon the verifying, and configuring the user system in accordance with the optimum configuration.

46. (new) A method for managing computer system performance, comprising:

monitoring activities occurring on a user system; and

upon encountering a minor error relating to at least one of a component and service of the user system, performing:

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searching a database for the minor error;

displaying a corresponding explanation of the minor error for a user via translation tables stored in the user system; and

displaying a corresponding set of action items for resolving the minor error or preventing a future occurrence of the minor error.

47. (new) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

upon encountering a severe error relating to the at least one of a component and a service of the user system, performing:

providing a detailed explanation of the severe error;

providing an explanation of a recovery plan underway to correct the severe error; and

connecting to a vendor system web site for assistance, the vendor system supplying the at least one of a component and a service to the user system.

48. (new) The method of claim 46, wherein the component includes at least one of software, a hardware device, and a system upgrade.

49. (new) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for managing computer system performance, the storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

monitoring activities occurring on a user system; and

upon encountering a minor error relating to at least one of a component and service of the user system, performing:

searching a database for the minor error;

displaying a corresponding explanation of the minor error for a user via translation tables stored in the user system; and

displaying a corresponding set of action items for resolving the minor error or preventing a future occurrence of the minor error.

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50. (new) The storage medium of claim 49, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

upon encountering a severe error relating to the at least one of a component and a service of the user system, performing:

providing a detailed explanation of the severe error;

providing an explanation of a recovery plan underway to correct the severe error; and

connecting to a vendor system web site for assistance, the vendor system supplying the at least one of a component and a service to the user system.

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